

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 6. The replacement sheet replaces the original sheet that contained FIG. 6. The replacement sheet adds the phrase “including execution unit control signals and/or flags” to element 630. Support for this change can be found, for example, in the specification at page 5, lines 28-29.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 8, 11-16, 18, and 21 will be amended, and claims 3-4 and 10 will be canceled. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-9, and 11-24 will be pending. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). FIG. 6 has been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments.

Objection to Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, in particular the limitations of claims 22-24 "wherein the apparatus is a digital base band processor" and "wherein the system is a code-division multiple access base station." Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection and direct the Examiner to the first two complete paragraphs of page 6 of the as-filed application.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not descriptive enough of the invention. The abstract has been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, the claimed invention lacks patentable utility, or the disclosure invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. The phrase "computer-readable" has been added to claim 16 in view of the Examiner's helpful comments.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are rejected as being anticipated by Kotani et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,789,140 (“Kotani”).

According to some embodiments of the present invention, a Direct Memory Access (DMA) unit may retrieve and partially pre-decode an instruction. The partially pre-decoded instruction may then completely executed and decoded by a processor. Moving a portion of the instruction pipeline from the processor (where it is typically found) to the DMA unit may improve the performance of the system.

As amended, claim 1 now recites that the DMA unit “partially pre-decod[es] the instruction” and that the processing element “completely decod[es] the pre-decoded instruction.

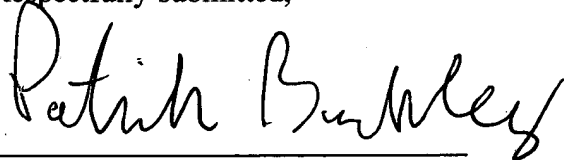
Kotani discloses that a DMA unit may receive drawing instructions from a Central Processing Unit (CPU). Certain advanced drawing instructions may be pre-decoded by the DMA (e.g., associated with line-drawing and filled-in areas of a drawing). The decoded advanced instructions are then provided from the DMA unit to drawing memory 240. Col. 11, lines 51 to 64.

Thus, Kotani does not disclose or suggest that a DMA unit would partially pre-decode an instruction or that a processor would “completely” decode the partially pre-decoded instruction. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 or contain similar limitations and should therefore also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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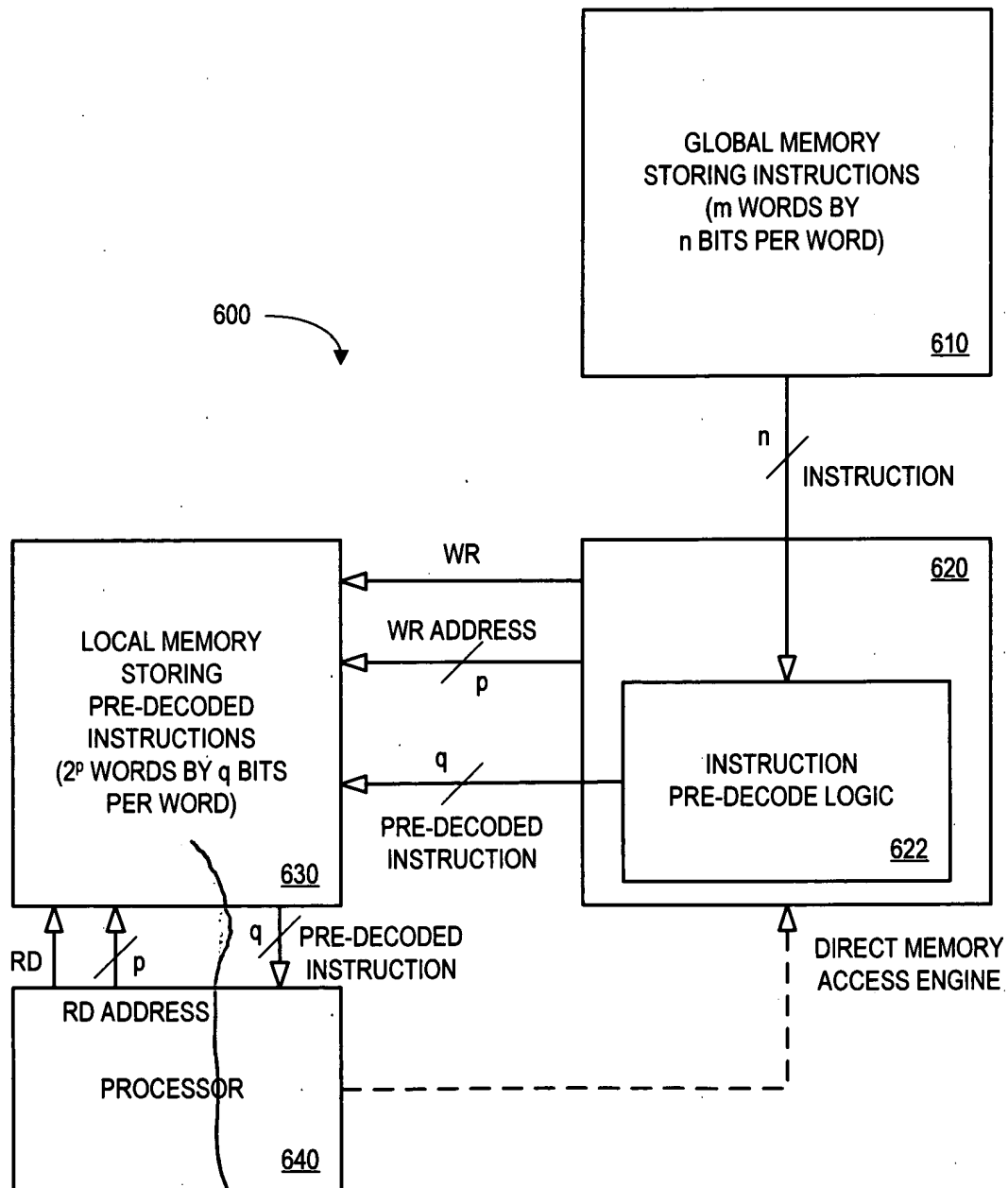


FIG. 6

INCLUDING
EXECUTION UNIT
CONTROL SIGNALS
AND/OR FLAGS